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February 12-18 is Child Passenger Safety Week

The San Bernardino County Traffic Safety Taskforce in collaboration with, SAFE KIDS Inland Empire, Public Health, First 5 and County Fire will be working hard to educate children and families in San Bernardino County on Traffic Safety issues during the month of February.

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading killer of children under 14. "Child passenger safety is not just about babies and toddlers," says Kim Patrick, Safe Kids Inland Empire coordinator. "It's a commitment that lasts as long as childhood. Too many kids move from a booster seat to a safety belt before they're big enough."

Babies ride in safety restraints more than 90 percent of the time, but children ages 4-7 ride in safety restraints only 73 percent of the time. "That's an alarming difference, and it shows that many parents and caregivers are unaware of the importance of booster seats," says the County Health Officer, Dr. Eric Frykman.

Kids who have outgrown car seats are safest and most comfortable on a booster seat until they are 4'9" (57") tall and 80 to 100 pounds — a height and weight most kids reach between ages 8-12. "Comfort is a factor in safety," says Frykman, "Kids who can't sit comfortably on an adult seat are likely to slouch or squirm and move out of a safe position. That's when adult safety belts can fail to provide enough protection." To attend a low cost car seat class in your area or for more information call 1-800-722-3578.

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